

ical saving it would have been if the function of procreation had been abolished or if these individuals had not been allowed to marry. It must, it is true, be admitted that laws simply to prevent intermarrying will not solve a problem of this kind, for if not allowed to do so legitimately they would still satisfy their natural proclivities by illegitimate procreation.

In dealing with the second proposition, namely, that of the child, many conditions come up for consideration. Beginning with the pre-natal period it must be said that there is much to be done, many changes to be made in the management and hygiene of the mother during the period of pregnancy, in order that the pregnant woman may be placed under the conditions most favorable to the production of a healthy offspring. When it is observed how little attention is given to this extremely critical period in the lives of both mother and child, one must admit that the laws of nature are most generous and lenient, in that, in spite of the many injurious influences brought to bear upon the procreative function and process, they succeed so well in creating so complex an organism with so little evidence of having been subjected to those injurious agencies. The old idea that is so prevalent, that nature will take care of herself under any and all conditions of life is so deeply impressed upon the minds of the laity in general, and indeed also upon the minds of many physicians, that any attempt to change the old order of things meets with a great deal of criticism and opposition. Most of this is due to ignorance, apathy or indifference. It is true, of course, that nature would take good care of herself if provided with the requirements necessary to the fulfillment of her laws in a normal manner,